

**Water/Wastewater Commissioners'**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 12, 2010**

Present: Robert E. Courage, Chairman  
Dale A. White, Member  
David Boucher  
Evelyn Gendron  
Absent: Michael E. Putnam, Vice-Chairman

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Courage called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Appointments:**

The Commissioners welcomed Mr. Don Ware, Pennichuck Water, present this evening to discuss the Amherst Street interconnection project. Referring to the street map he had given to Superintendent Boucher, he explained the water connections along Bartlett Commons and Northwood/Southwood. He said that the cost to produce the water in this area is approximately 43 cents per cubic foot. Chairman Courage said that he understands Pennichuck's desire to serve their customers from their own source, adding that the idea of an inter-municipal connection there would be a benefit to Milford as well as to Pennichuck. Mr. Ware agreed that in the event of an emergency, water could be supplied to Milford. He said that the hydraulic grade line is approximately 20 feet higher than Milford's, and that by maintaining constant pressure, the check valve in place would remain closed. He said that it is capable of producing 1,000 gallons per minute and the flat check valve could handle pressure changes in the event of a fire or a water main break within the Milford distribution system in that area. Chairman Courage asked if a meter was in place. Mr. Ware said no, and that perhaps a map of the Milford hydrants would be helpful to determine if a hydrant-to-hydrant method of supplying water would be the preferable route to take. He explained the hydraulic pressure grade would be sufficient. Commissioner White suggested investigating using the inside pit in the event of an emergency. Mr. Ware said that existing bolts, if rusted, could be cut, and changed to stainless steel, or just be inspected and changed to stainless steel in anticipation of future access, if that is what the commissioners would like. Commissioner White and Chairman Courage agreed that would be a favorable course of action. Mr. Ware said that the meter could be flipped and read, and his interest is in providing a service to people in the area.

Superintendent Boucher asked if there were an emergency at a Pennichuck pump station there and Milford were to provide water to that section, would it be possible that Milford would provide water beyond the pump station, in the "old section", referring to the map. Mr. Ware explained that the water could flow by gravity alone with the section in question and described the area with limits of service. Mr. Ware said that some years ago the Nashua Regional Planning Commission did a large study of which towns could push water where and under what circumstances, and that in a lot of cases there were arrow of water going in one direction and in a worst case scenario the NRPC said that in a worst case scenario the water could be turned around and pushed in the other direction and this is one of those

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situations where, given the hydraulic grade lines and conditions, the water could easily go either way by taking the check valve out of that pit. In an emergency, he said, Milford will be able to do what they need to do. Mr. Ware said that the intent was to just stay a customer in the Amherst Street vicinity, and he is a little concerned about the section of 12" main with no customers, and if the water in that section of line never moves, the water will become very stagnant and perhaps three years down the road if Pennichuck were to say, okay, we will take water from Milford on an emergency basis from you, it is going to be an issue, for example a fire. So, he said, the logical thing to do is run the water about a day's worth of usage to clear that line once a week. Commissioner White said he feels that would be very important for both parties. Chairman Courage agreed, adding that it would be metered. Superintendent Boucher asked what the proposed connection date is. Mr. Ware explained the completed portion and the portion that is projected to be completed and operational within a month. Mr. Ware said this was a partnership project wherein the developer's cost was approximately 42% and Pennichuck's cost was about 58%, based on the number of customers, and then there is a connection fee set up because it is going to allow this development to come on-line basically "Scott free", a pro-rata share of the cost so that everyone ends up with a lower cost, and there will be even more savings when future customers are on-line. Chairman Courage asked Mr. Ware if Pennichuck needed anything in writing? Mr. Ware said no, that Pennichuck's impression all along has been that they are just remaining a customer, nothing would be changing, that the only difference would be had Pennichuck extended in a particular direction, not only would Pennichuck had been a sole customer, Pennichuck would have been paying Milford's water connection fee, but instead everyone in two sections of the map paid. Sections where Pennichuck had paid entrance and impact fees were discussed. Superintendent Boucher asked Mr. Ware to let him know when the Pennichuck pump station becomes operational. Mr. Ware agreed to do so. Commissioner White asked if a letter would be helpful stating that Pennichuck would maintain that on a weekly basis, or would it not be needed. It was agreed that would not be necessary. Mr. Boucher said that Pennichuck would be required to perform regular bacteria sampling. Mr. Ware agreed. Mr. Courage asked the capacity of the water storage tank in Amherst, at the rear of Atherton Commons. Mr. Ware said it is a 200,000 gallon tank. Mr. Ware anticipates a long period of rate stability before there will be further rate increases. Commissioner White and Chairman Courage thanked Mr. Ware for coming to the meeting this evening.

### **Decisions:**

Approval of Final Minutes – Commissioner White made the motion to approve the final minutes of the meetings held on September 28, 2010 as amended. Chairman Courage seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Water Users Fee/Tax Collector's Warrant – The Commissioners signed this document as presented for the September 2010 Bill Commitment 100930 and for the September 2010 Final Bills issued.

Sewer Users Fee/Tax Collector's Warrant – The Commissioners signed this document as presented for the September 2010 Bill Commitment 100930 and for the September 2010 Final Bills issued.

Sewer Abatement Request – 60 Valhalla Drive – Chairman Courage made the motion to approve the sewer abatement request due to water used for the purpose of filling a pool. The amount of sewer usage to be abated is 2,150 cubic feet. Commissioner White seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Sewer Abatement Request – 64 West Street – Chairman Courage made the motion to approve the sewer abatement request on a one-time exception basis due to water used for the purpose of lawn care and the water did not enter the sewer system. The amount of sewer usage to be abated is 4,363 cubic feet. Commissioner White seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Water Exploration – Chairman Courage said that putting in further test wells at an undisclosed south side of the Souhegan River is of interest and that the owner's permission has been received. A letter has been drafted, one that is typically used by Wright Pierce. Chairman Courage made the motion for this evening's action/approval to approve sending the letter to the owner for the files. Commissioner White seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

### **Discussions:**

2011 Water Utilities Budget – Superintendent Boucher said that he will have budget figures for the next commissioners' meeting and explained how the appropriations report aids the budget planning process.

211 Elm Street Sewer Project – Superintendent Boucher distributed hand-outs for Carrigan Place and said this was to be paid by the developer. The interest of the area businesses was discussed. The Collection System Foreman would estimate costs and distance involved. Public Works Department planned involvement with respect to paving will be determined. Discussion followed regarding infrastructure adding value to businesses and land and the benefits to the community as a whole, and there is merit to putting sewer extension projects onto Town warrant articles. Commissioner White said that a first order of business may be to come up with a formula, to present to businesses to determine interest, to put into a warrant article, and that we owe it to our taxpayers to give them the option to decide for themselves. Superintendent Boucher said that all the businesses in the section would have to agree to the substantial sewer investment, and that some would require paving. Commissioner White suggested getting an estimate from an engineering firm, perhaps Meridian Land Services. Mr. Boucher will contact Meridian, and can talk with Public Works after the information has been received. Chairman Courage said to include landscape restoration costs. Chairman Courage said Commissioner White could present this information to the Board of Selectmen at a future meeting, and said there is a work session planned for this coming Monday evening for the commissioners to attend.

### **Information Items:**

Activities Report – The commissioners reviewed the information provided without comment.

Curtis Well – Superintendent Boucher said that the wells are shutting down more frequently and that the pumps are keeping up with the demand. Mr. Brian Wilson of Wilson Technologies did an inspection and report; both vaults were entered, only vault one was found to have stray voltage. Stantec Consulting will have their electrical engineer on-site to offer advice on correcting the various problems. The transducers have not been fixed yet.

Budget Transfer – Superintendent Boucher will look into the matter of having the \$21,711 Curtis Well consulting services transferred. He will contact Mr. Sheehy, the Finance Director.

**Future Appointments/Meetings:**


The next regular meeting of the Water and Wastewater Commissioners will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at the Water Utilities Department, 564 Nashua Street.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Courage at 7:25 p.m. Commissioner White seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn B. Gendron

  
Robert E. Courage – Chairman

11/9/2010  
Date

  
Dale A. White, Commissioner

11/9/2010  
Date